

By the King.

A Proclamation to restraine the excessiue carriages in VVagons and foure wheeled Carts, to the destruction of the High-wayes.



E haue many times heretofore expressed the great care and desire We alwayes had, that the Common High-Wayes and Bridges within this Realme, might be kept in due repayre, for the generall ease and good of Our louing Subiects, and haue given many and often directions to Our Privie Counsell, Judges, and other Officers, for effecting thereof; And finding a chiefe cause of the exceeding decayes thereof, to be the extraordinary carriages with Carts, and wagons with foure wheeles, carrying excessiue burthens, whereby the High-Wayes are so galled, and the very foundations of any ordinary Bridges shaken, that no ordinary repayre can maintaine and keepe the same passable: We did heretofore cause Our Judges to advise thereof, by Whom we were resolued, that those extraordinary carriages

Were common Nusances and annoyances against the weale Publique, and the vse of them an offence against Our Crowne and Lawes: We did therefore by Our Proclamation, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, prohibite the going or trauailing with any such Cart or Wagon. Notwithstanding all which, and the great care, aswell of Our Privie Counsell, as of Our Judges in their Circuites, We finde no amendment, but that the High-Wayes, not onely in the remoter parts, but also in places of Our owne vsuall accessse, are still spoyled and ploughed vp by those unreasonable carriages, so as they continue still so foule and deepe, as they are oft times almost vnpassable. We therefore intending redresse and reformation in the Premisses, and being resolued, that for the effecting thereof, a more seuer and strict course be taken then hath beene heretofore, haue thought it agreeable to Our owne princely goodnessse, once more to warne Our Subiects thereof, that such as shall hereafter offend, and shall be iustly punished therefore, may be altogether vngeneral.

And therefore, we doe by this Our Proclamation, and by the advise of the Lords and others of Our Privie Counsel, straitly charge, require and command, That no common Carryer, or other person, or persons whatsoeuer, shal from, and after the Feast of S. Michael the Arch-angel, now next comming, vse, goe, or trauell with any Cart, or wagon, made with foure wheeles, nor with any other Cart or wagon whatsoeuer, but onely such wagons and Carts, as shall haue but two wheeles; and that they doe not carry in any wayne, Cart, or carriage, to be after that time vsed, any load or burthen, aboue the weight of twentie hundred, nor shall draw, or vse their said Carts, or waynes, or carriages, with more then five horses at once in their journey, vpon paine of our heany indignation, and displeasure, and of the severest censure of Our high Court of Star-Chamber, and such further paines, punishments, and imprisonments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme may be inflicted vpon the offendours, for such their offence and contempt.

And therefore we doe hereby require Our Atturney generall, for the time being, vpon notice given vnto him of any such offendour, or offendours, to prosecute him, and them in the said high Court of Star-Chamber, there to receive such censure and punishment, by fine, imprisonment, and other wise, as their contempts and offences against this Our Royall Command shall deserue. And lastly, we doe hereby will and require, all Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Justices of Peace, and other Our Officers, and Ministers, in all Countiees, and pruiledged places whatsoeuer, within this Our Realme, That they, and every of them, in their severall Offices, and places, doe from time to time prouide, and see to the due execution of this Our pleasure, and Royall Commandement; And that they discouer and make knowne all offendours herein, that they may be severely punished for their offences and contempts; As also, that they neglect not, but continue the repaire and maintenance of High-Wayes, Bridges, and Causeys within this Our Realme, according to the Lawes, Statutes, and Ordinances now in force, and Our Commandement heretofore giuen, as they tender Our pleasure, and will answe the contrary, at their vttermost perills.

Giuen at Our Court at Windsor, the sixt day of August; In the yeeres of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, the twentieth, and of Scotland the sixe and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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Kings most Excellent Majestie. M. D. C. XXII.

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